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PEDIATRIC COVID-19 CASES & PREVENTION

Child COVID cases have spiked dramatically across the United States. In the past week, nearly 1 million cases were reported which represents a four times the rate of the peak of last winters' surge, according the American Academy of Pediatrics. This number of cases represents 20% of the total active cases of COVID in our nation. Presently, we are seeing an exponential increase in pediatric cases.

Hospitalization rate is approximately 4% of these cases with a mortality of less than one percent (2/1000). Nearly 9.5 million children have tested positive for COVID-19 since beginning of pandemic.

Vaccines continue to be the best defense against COVID-19.

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WHY WOULD YOUR CHILD NEED THE VACCINE?

According the Texas Children's Hospital, 1/3 of children who are hospitalized will require ICU care. Children also at risk for a severe long-term complication called **Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C)**. This complication can occur 6-8 weeks after an asymptomatic or mild COVID infection and can affect the heart, lungs, kidneys and other vital organs.

Children can also develop **'Long COVID'** conditions characterized by fatigue, headache, loss of taste and smell, joint/muscle pain, and trouble concentrating. This may last weeks or months.

Children can spread COVID-19 to family members, immunocompromised individuals and classmates, even if they are asymptomatic or mild symptoms. The vaccine will help prevent spread of virus to others, especially those are unable to get vaccinated or are 'at-risk'.



The CDC recommends that everyone ages **5 years and older** get a COVID-19 vaccine



✓ IS THE VACCINE SAFE?

Yes. Millions of doses have been given to the pediatric population. A rare complication is myocarditis (inflammation of heart muscle) or pericarditis (inflammation of sac around the heart). The risk is approximately 54 individuals per million in males, ages of 12-17 years after second dose. This condition is temporary and easily managed. The risk of COVID infection far exceeds the risk of the vaccine. A severe allergic reaction may happen after any vaccine, including COVID, but is rare. The vaccine doesn't cause fertility problems.

✓ IS THE VACCINE EFFECTIVE?

The Pfizer vaccine is over 90% effect at preventing symptoms against COVID-19 when the vaccine series and booster is completed. It is 93% effective in reducing pediatric hospitalizations.

✓ IS THE PEDIATRIC VACCINE DIFFERENT FROM THE ADULT VACCINE?

Yes. The Pfizer vaccine for 12 years and up is the same as adult dose. The Vaccine for 5-11 years old is 1/3 the dose of adolescent and adult dose.

MOST CHILDREN AND ALL TEENS CAN GET COVID-19 VACCINES

CDC recommends **everyone ages 5 years and older** get a **COVID-19 vaccine** to help protect against COVID-19.

Authorized for	Pfizer-BioNTech	Moderna	J&J / Janssen	Booster Recommended
4 years & under	No	No	No	No
5-11 years old	Yes	No	No	No
12-17 years old	Yes	No	No	Yes
18 years & older	Yes	Yes	*	Yes

*Everyone ages 18 years and older should get a booster dose of either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna (mRNA COVID-19 vaccines) at least 2 months after receiving the Johnson & Johnson's Janssen (J&J/Janssen) vaccine in most situations.



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